

## Message Text

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11

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-11 ARA-16 L-03 SS-20 SP-03 H-03

INR-10 MC-02 RSC-01 DRC-01 EB-11 /089 W

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R 080445Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0716

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 2516

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, CI, SN

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SALE OF A-4S TO CHILE

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED LETTER FROM MINISTRY OF DEFENSE,  
DR. GOH KENG SWEE, ADDRESSED TO AMBASSADOR REQUESTING  
US ATTITUDE TOWARDS ANY POSSIBLE SALES OF A-4S TO  
CHILE. TEXT OF LETTER AS FOLLOWS:

"LOCKHEED WANTS TO SELL REFURBISHED A-4S TO THE  
GOVERNMENT OF CHILE. WE ARE TRYING TO HELP THEM  
BY INVITING SOME OF CHILE'S DEFENCE MINISTRY  
OFFICIALS TO SINGAPORE AS OUR GUESTS. LOCKHEED  
TOLD ME THAT THE SALE OF A-4S TO CHILE WOULD NOT  
BE AGAINST US GOVERNMENT POLICY.

"HOWEVER, I READ IN THE WALL STREET JOURNAL,  
MILITARY MAY 28, 1974, THAT CONGRESS ARE NOT  
HAPPY ABOUT THE SUPPLY OF ARMS TO CHILE. I ENCLOSE  
A COPY OF THE ARTICLE.

" OF COURSE, CONGRESSIONAL OPINION MAY NOT NECESSARILY  
REFLECT GOVERNMENT'S POLICY, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO  
CHECK WITH YOU ABOUT THE ATTITUDE OF YOUR GOVERNMENT  
TOWARDS ANY POSSIBLE SALES OF A-4S TO CHILE,  
BEFORE CONSIDERING BEING INVOLVED IN THE LOCKHEEDS  
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SALES PITCH.

"PERSONALLY, I REGARD IMMEDIATE SALES PROSPECTS AS PRETTY SLIM, THE CHILEANS JUST HAVING BOUGHT SOME HUNTERS FROM BRITAIN. WE HAVE OTHER BUSINESS TO DO WITH THE CHILEANS. SINCE THEY ARE UNABLE TO GET THE HUNTER ENGINES OVERHAULED IN BRITAIN, WE MAY BE ABLE TO DO THAT FOR THEM IN SINGAPORE."

2. CLIPPING FROM MAY 28 WALL STREET JOURNAL CONTAINS ARTICLE BY EVERETT G. MARTIN ON PERU/CHILE TENSIONS AND CONTAINS FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH WHICH MAY HAVE PROMPTED DR. GOH'S LETTER:

"CHILE MIGHT HAVE BEEN RESTING EASIER, BUT ITS HOPE OF GETTING NEW WARPLANES AND TANKS FROM THE U.S LOOKS DIM. BEFORE THE MILITARY COUP THAT BROUGHT DOWN MARXIST PRESIDENT SALVADOR ALLENDE'S REGIME, THE U.S. HAD AGREED TO SELL 18 F-5 FREEDOM FIGHTER JETS AND 20 J-60 TANKS TO CHILE. CONGRESSIONAL REACTION TO THE COUP AND ITS AFTERMATH WAS SO STRONG, HOWEVER, THAT AN OFFICIAL SOURCE SAYS, "THESE SALES ARE NOW UNDER RECONSIDERATION, AND THE CHILEANS AREN'T HAPPY ABOUT IT."

3. REQUEST DEPT'S ADVICE ASAP ON US ATTITUDE TOWARD POSSIBLE SALE OF A-4S TO CHILE.

4. COMMENT: AS DEPT. AWARE, BOTH LOCKHEED AND GOS HAVE BEEN EXPLORING POSSIBILITY OF USING LOCKHEED'S SINGAPORE FACILITY TO REFURBISH A-4S WHICH US MIGHT SELL TO THIRD COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, NEGATIVE PHRASEOLOGY LAST PARA. OF DR. GOH'S LETTER SUGGESTS GOS COULD LIVE WITH NEGATIVE US RESPONSE.  
GRANT

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY AIRCRAFT, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MILITARY SALES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 JUN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** smithrj  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 AUG 2002  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, MASS, CI, SN, US  
**To:** STATE  
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